Minutes

OF THE

Seventy-First

Annual Session

OF THE

UNITY ASSOCIATION

OF PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS

1963

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MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION OF THE UNITY ASSOCIATION OF PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS

After prayer by Elder Lowell McClain the introductory sermon was preached by Elder Lowell McClain, after which the association was called to order by the Moderator. Called for letters from various churches. The letters were read by Elder Henry Cash and Elder Lowell McClain.

The messengers were seated.

Vernon Church: Brothers W. W. Morris, E. R. Gilmore, Sisters E. R. Gilmore, Martha McWilliams as alternate.

Anson Church: Brothers R. I. Foster, Doug Davis, Sister Bea Gilford.

Bethlehem Church: Brothers O. E. Linten M. M. Henderson, J. B. Edwards, J. C. Walker as alternate.

1. Called for Associational correspondence; there was none.

2. Elected Moderator and Clerk; by motion and second we retain the same Moderator and Clerk.

3. Called for associational correspondence.

Salem: Elder and Sister E. M. Miracle and two granddaughters, Elder and Sister J. A. Neatherlin.

Bosque River, Little Flock: Brother and Sister J. D. Channey and Margaret.

Old Harmony: Elder J. W. Franks, Brother and Sister Hayden Hart, Elder Ramon Bunch.

South Plains: Brother and Sister John Newton and their grandchild Jean Jo June, James Jerry and Johnny Hopper, Elder George Tremble and son Joe, Brother Lester Baccus, Brother and Sister L. D. Fitch, Brother Johnnie and Joe, Brother W. G. Hamilton, Brother and Sister Shanks, Elder and Sister E. L. Edwards, Brother and Sister Doyle Smith.

First Primitive Baptist of Oklahoma; no tidings.

Pilot Grove: Brother and Sister Graves, Sister O. H. Phillips, Brother Tommy Bunch, Elder Henry Ball.

Golden West: no tidings.

4. Invite visiting members from other churches and associations to sesat with us.

Elder Henry Cash and wife from Enon Church, Brother and

Sister Hennry Howard, Bethlehem Primitive Baptist, Kenner Louisana, Amite Association. Elder Lowell McClain and wife and son Larry from Haynesville Church, La.

5. Appointed preaching Committee: Brother Doug Davis, Harmony Church, E. R. Gilmore, Vernon Church, O. E. Linton M. M. Henderson, J. B. Edwards, Bethlehem Church.

6. Appointed Sister E. R. Gilmore to write the Correspondence Letter.

7. Appointed a Finance Committee: Brothers M. M. Henderson, W. W. Morris, For care of the Ministry. Brothers E. R. Gilmore, R. I. Foster.

8. Carried motion to adjourn until 8:30 Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING:

The Association was opened by Elder Ramon Bunch by reading from the 10th chapter of 1st Corinthians and offering prayer.

1. Called the roll of messengers; all were present.

2. Renew the call to seats with us.

3. Renewed the call for petitionary letters; there were none.

4. Called for report of finance committee. The report was: For care of Association, $305.00; for printing of minutes, $35.00.

5. Motion carried to have 150 of these minutes printed.

6. The Correspondence Letter written by Sister E. R. Gilmore was read and accepted.

7. Motion and second that the Association be held at the same place in 1964 by all three churches.

ELDER W. D. RAMSEY, Moderator
DORA M. HENDERSON, Clerk

ORDER OF PREACHING

Thursday night: Elder Henry Cash
Friday morning: Elder Lowell McClain
Friday evening: Elder John W. Franks, Elder W. D. Ramsey
Friday night: Elder E. M. Miracle, Elder Henry Ball.
Saturday morning: Elder Henry Cash.
Saturday evening: Elder G. Stanford, Elder Ramon Bunch.
Saturday night: Elder George Tremble, Elder J. A. Neatherlin.
Sunday morning: Elder Elmo Edwards, Elder Lowell McClain.

CORRESPONDING LETTER

Dear Saints of God: Through the kind mercy and care of our loving Lord we are permitted to meet once more in the seventy-first session of the Unity Association. We are so thankful to meet with all the Lord's people and pray always we may have this privilege of being in correspondence and fellowship with so great a people. We beg your prayers that we may serve the Lord better.

Your little sister,

UNITY

STATISTICAL TABLE

RED RIVER CHURCH, Vernon, Texas: Brethren E. R. Gilmore, W. W. Morris, Sister E. R. Gilmore, Sister Marthy McWilliams as alternate.

Our Statistics: two deceased; no other changes; total membership 45; meeting, second Sunday and Saturday before at 10 a. m.; months of communion, May and September.
Elder J. A. Neatherlin, pastor, Dora M. Henderson, Clerk.

HARMONY CHURCH, Anson, Texas: Messengers: Brothers Douglas Davis, R. I. Foster, L. Lund, Sister Beatrice Gifford as alternate.

Our Statistics: Received by Letter, one; deceased, two; membership 15; Sundays of meeting, first and third.
Elder W. D. Ramsey, pastor; Mrs. Beatrice Gilford, Clerk.

BETHLEHEM CHURCH, Munday, Texas: Messengers: Brothers O. E. Linton, M. M. Henderson, J. B. Edwards, J. C. Walker as alternate.

Our Statistics: Received by Letter, one; desceased, one; membership, 45; Meeting, second Sunday and Saturday before at 2:30 p. m.

Elder Ramon Bunch, pastor; Brother G. T. Floyd, Moderator pro tem; Mrs. Daisy Johnson, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF CONSTITUTION

1. The members of the several churches when met producing letters certifying their appointment, shall be denominated the Unity Association of Baptist of the Primitive order.

2. The Association, when met, shall appoint a Moderator and Clerk from among themselves for their own benefit to do business of the Association.

3. The Association may adopt such rules as it thinks necessary, provided such rules are in no wise repugnant to the principles or design of the churches in the formation of this Association.

4. The Association shall in no case whatever interfere or meddle with the business belonging to the churches.

5. The church shall be considered the highest ecclesiastical authority on earth, and each member possessing equal rights agreeable to His order in the gospel; and the Association, a medium of free correspondence with each church composing this Association.

6. The Association shall have power to receive into union any orderly church that may petition by letter or delegate, if upon examination, she be found orthodox in faith and orderly in practice. In all cases, if difficulty should arise among themselves, the Association shall refer the question to the churches with the necessary advice, for their decision. A majority of the churches shall determine the matter.

7. The Association shall have power to regulate and see that good order is preserved in the administration of the word while in session, and to appoint members from among themselves, with his or their consent to transact any business belonging to the Association and to keep up a correspondence with as many of our sister Associations as she may find it convenient unless prohibited by the churches.

8. No query shall be presented to the Association unless it first be adopted in the church where it takes rise and cannot be decided in the church.

9. No charge shall be presented against a sister church until its regular order of the gospel as recorded in the 18th chapter of Matthew and other scriptures relating thereunto be first attended to.

10. At the request of any two churches an act of the Association shall be referred to all of the churches for their decision.

11. We will not tolerate nor hold in fellowship nor keep in union with any church who suffers her members to go into, or belong to any of the isms of the day, such as Arminianism, Two-Seedism, Non-

Resurrectionists, Soul Sleepingism, ModernMissionism, Secret institutions of the day, or any other ism that be inconsistent with sound doctrine.

12. The Association shall have the liberty of adjourning itself to any time or place as it may think necessary, have their proceedings fully printed and distributed among the churches agreeable to the number of members in each church and reserve as many copies as it thinks necessary for correspondence purposes of the sister Associations.

13. Any church in the union shall have liberty of corresponding with each other, but not more than three delegates from each church, and it is requested that each church give the statistics in the letter of their church, the number of members and those received by experience and baptism, by letter, and those dismissed by letter, and those excluded, and those that have died since the last meeting of the Association.

14. Any amendment to this Constitution may be made when three-fourths of the churches desire it.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one only true and living God, and the Trinity of persons in the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Ghost—and yet not three, but one God.—Deut. 6:4; Mal. 2:10; 1 Cor. 8:6; 1 Jn. 5:7.

2. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the words of God and the only rule of faith and practice, and prefer the translation made under the authority of King James to any now existent.—2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:29, 21.

3. We believe that the whole of the human family were created in Adam, their seminal head, and all alike fell in him by his transgression of the law, and all partake of his sinful nature.—Acts 17:26; Rom. 5:12, 18, 19.

4. We believe in the covenant of redemption by the Holy Trinity and that a definite number of fallen sons and daughters of Adam were chosen in Christ before the world began, that they should be holy and without blame before Him in love.—Sam. 23:5; Heb. 13:20; Eph. 1:4; John 6:37-41; Tim. 1:9; Psa. 65:4; 49:8, 9; John 17:2.

5. We believe that all the chosen in Christ shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit and that they will all be justified in the sight of God by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, and will be preserved through grace and never fall finally away.—Jn. 6:45; Thess. 2:13; Jn. 10:28, 29; Heb. 8:10-12; Pet. 1:5; Jn. 17:11; Jude 1.

6. We believe that evangelical faith is the gift of God, and good works are fruits of faith, and justify us in the sight of men and angels, as evidences of our glorious state.—Eph. 2:8-10; Gal. 5:22; Rom. 8:8; Heb. 11:6.

7. We believe that all spiritual blessings that are essential for the consumation of the eternal salvation of the elect were given them in Christ before the world began, and in time bestowed on them by virtue of His atonement for them.—Eph. 1:3, 4; 2 Tim. 1:7; Rom. 5:11; 2 Cor. 1:3, 4; John 1:16.

8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of baptism, and that immersion is the only apostolic mode.—Matt. 28: 19, 20; Acts 8:12, 27, 39; Rom. 6:4; Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 14:22-25.

9. We believe that washing the saints' feet is a duty enjoined by

Jesus Christ and should be done in church capacity.—John 13:4-16; 1 Tim. 5:10; Matt. 28:30.

10. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the gospel but one who is regularly baptized and called of God,, and has come under the imposition of the hands of the presbytery.—Acts 13:2, 3; Heb. 5:4; Matt. 9:38.

11. We believe that none but regularly baptized believers have a right to commune at the Lord's table. Luke 22:29, 30; Matt. 26:20-29.

12. We believe in the resurrection of the just and unjust and that the vile bodies of the saints shall be fashioned like the glorious body of Christ, and that the felicity of the saints and punishment of the wicked will be everlasting.—Phil. 3:21; Rom. 8:11 John 5:28, 29.

13. We believe that the grace of God is sufficient for His children, and therefore, we deem it disorderly for any members to attach himself to any institution of the day.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. This Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. The Moderator may announce the place to hold an Association and may appoint someone to stand, and in case of failure the messengers may appoint someone to act as Moderator Pro Tem.

3. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot, by a majority of the members present.

4. The Moderator shall endeavor to preserve order and shall have the same right to speak as any other members, but before rising to speak, shall appoint a Moderator pro tem.

5. The Moderator shall take the vote on all questions that are seconded and announce the decision, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it, and give his vote only in case of tie.

6. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a true record of all the acts of the Association, and keep a list of names and all the members and call over as the Association may require.

7. Only one member shall speak at a time and shall rise and address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the subject in debate; and must not be interrupted unless he depart from the subject and then the Moderator shall call him to order.

8. No member shall speak more than three times on the same subject without permission of the Association.

9. Any member wishing to absent himself from the Association must first obtain permission.

10. No whispering or laughing may be allowed while any member is speaking.

11. Every member of the Association must be addressed by the appellation of "Brother."

12. This Association may correspond with as many Associations as she deems expedient, but in no case shall she dictate to the churches, but shall act only by the authority of the churches of whom he is composed.

13. This Associaion shall be for union of the churches and Christian correspondence.

14. This Association declares herself to be her own committee.

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